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PEKING BANQUET, MESSAGE MARK ANNIVERSARY OF SIHANOUK FRONT

MARCH 72

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Peking put on a major show of support for Sihanouk's movement in marking the second anniversary of the prince's arrival in Peking after his ouster and of the establishment of his front (FUNK) and liberation army (CNPLAF). A banquet marking the occasion on 19 March was attended by the entire array of fully active Chinese Politburo members, including Chou En-lai and Chiang Ching. A similar banquet last year also saw a major leadership turnout, though that one was not graced by the presence of Mao's wife.

Also like last year, PRC Acting Chairman Tung Pi-wu and Chou sent a message on the 22d to Sihanouk and Penn Nouth on the FUNK and CNPLAF anniversary. This year's message, however, associates the PRC with the Cambodian war effort in looser terms while again pledging Chinese "all-out support and assistance" to the Cambodian and other Indochinese people. Last year's reference to China as "the great rear area" of the Indochina war is absent this year; and though the current message again calls China and Cambodia "close neighbors," the reference last year to the two peoples as "comrades-in-arms and brothers" is reduced this year to "true friends."

Speaking at the banquet, Chou voiced the strongest Chinese condemnation of Washington's Indochina policies since President Nixon's visit, though the President was spared any direct attack. Chou's speech contained Peking's first criticism of the U.S. eight-point peace proposal since the 19 February PRC Foreign Ministry statement on U.S. bombing of the DRV, issued on the eve of the President's arrival. Warning that the United States is not yet reconciled to its defeats and is stepping up its programs of "Khmerization," "Laotianization," and "Vietnamization" to prolong and intensify the war, Chou labeled the eight-point proposal a "political scheme to dupe the people of the world" and to realize the "criminal aim of forcibly occupying Indochina." Chou concluded by forcefully reiterating Chinese support to the Cambodian and other Indochinese people, declaring that it is "the bounden internationalist duty" of the Chinese to provide "all-out support and assistance" and that this stand is "firm and unshakable."

Chou's speech was most notable for calling "special attention" to what he described as an effort by "certain powers" to promote a compromise in Cambodia that would split the FUNK and "undermine the militant unity of the Cambodian people and the Indochinese

interests vis-a-vis the United States and those of its allies. In the ~~statement~~ Peking does not directly denounce the Nixon Administration on its own authority, as the Cambodian and DRV statements do. The version of the statement originally carried by NCNA in both Chinese and English cited the Cambodian statement as condemning "U.S. imperialism," but reruns by NCNA changed that to "Nixon Administration." The propaganda apparatus evidently been instructed to avoid direct attacks on the President but to give some publicity to such attacks in the name of Peking's allies.

While refraining from attacking Washington's stand on a peace settlement, the Chinese statement echoes the RGNU's demands that the United States withdraw from Cambodia immediately, totally, and unconditionally, stop its air raids, cease support for the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh "clique," and allow the Cambodian people to settle their own affairs on the basis of Sihanouk's 23 March 1970 declaration and the political program of the FUNK. It lauds the current "excellent" situation of Cambodia's war, pointing to the "disastrous defeats" of the U.S. aggressors and lackeys and the "chaos" of the Lon Nol regime.

### DPRK SIGNS MILITARY AID AGREEMENT WITH SIHANOUK'S GOVERNMENT

North Korea demonstrated its support of Sihanouk's government (RGNU), following Peking's lead in signing an agreement on "military aid" to Cambodia on 16 March. Peking had signed an agreement on economic and military aid on 11 February. Although Peking had concluded a previous military aid agreement with the RGNU in August 1970, there is no available report of any previous North Korean agreement.

The agreement was concluded during the 15-18 March visit to North Korea of a RGNU military delegation led by Duong Sam Ol, FUNK Politburo member and RGNU Minister of Military Equipment and Armament. The group received high-level treatment in Pyongyang, including a meeting with First Vice Premier Kim Il on the 17th for a "friendly conversation." DPRK Chief of General Staff Gen. O Chin-u addressed a banquet for the visiting Cambodians on the 15th, and Foreign Minister Ho Tam received the group for a "friendly talk" on the 16th and attended a banquet hosted by the Cambodians on the following day.

these unnamed powers, "which are accomplices of U.S. imperialism," are using dishonorable "political, diplomatic, and other means" to discredit his government and to praise "the illegal, anticonstitutional, antipopular, antinational, pro-imperialist, fascist, and archcriminal" regime of Lon Nol.

VIETNAM                      While Peking was lavishly feting Sihanouk on the  
ANTI-U.S. DAY              FUNK anniversary, it gave minimal attention to  
                                 the 19 March Vietnam "anti-U.S. day." Peking's  
downplaying of the anniversary this year accords with its  
continuing circumspection in commenting on the United States and  
may reflect the strains in Sino-Vietnamese relations arising  
from President Nixon's visit to the PRC. The only attention  
Peking gave to the Vietnamese anniversary were reports of  
activities in Vietnam, a press conference by the PRG ambassador  
in Peking, and also a film reception hosted by the DRV ambassador.  
NCNA in Chinese, but not in English, also carried "international  
reference material" on the anniversary. This treatment contrasts  
with that of last year, which included a Peking rally attended by  
Li Hsien-nien and addressed by a deputy chief of the PLA General  
Staff. In 1969 and 1970 Peking had treated the anniversary much  
as it did this year, but in prior years it had given the occasion  
prominent attention, including a rally addressed by Chou En-lai  
and editorial comment.

#### SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT, DRV, PRC CONDEMN INCURSION INTO CAMBODIA

A protest by Sihanouk's government (RGNU) condemning Saigon's military operation in Cambodia which began on 10 March has been supported as usual by official DRV and PRC statements. A RGNU spokesman's statement on the 15th denounces the "invasion" of Cambodia by "U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, the Saigon puppet troops." The RGNU normally comments officially on such military operations. Thus, the "U.S.-Saigon invasion of Cambodia" launched on 22 November 1971 was condemned in a 25 November RGNU Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement and a 28 November statement by the RGNU Information and Propaganda Ministry.

According to the recent statement, the "new military adventure" confirms the expansion of President Nixon's Vietnamization policy and exposes his "deceitful utterances" about seeking peace in Asia and reducing tension in this part of the world. The statement exudes confidence, however, asserting that the Cambodian people and armed forces, "marching forward on the crest of victory," will "frustrate all aggression by the U.S. imperialists and their Saigon